

# CAMP DARBY



Issue 4

## FINANCE NEWSLETTER

Jan 2002

Bravo Detachment, 208th FB, Camp Darby, Italy

### THE EURO IS HERE!!!

Inside this issue you will find a EURO Fact sheet that has a lot of useful information.

Here at your local finance offices in Vicenza and Camp Darby, Italy, we will purchase your LIRA and exchange it for EURO until the 15th of February, 2002. The exchange rate for lire-to-euro, established by the European Union, is fixed at 1,936.27 lire to the euro.

We have had numerous inquiries about the effect of the euro on lease, rental agreements, and mortgages. The amounts agreed upon in the original contract will simply be converted to euro without re-negotiation. For more information, please contact your local Housing Office.

Further information can be found on the European Union's official euro site <http://europa.eu.int/euro/>, or contact the SETAF Disbursing Officer at DSN: 634-7254.



PROUDLY SERVING OUR  
MILITARY COMMUNITY



### THRIFT SAVING PLAN:

Time is running out but It's not too late to open your TSP retirement account. **The open season window for active army personnel closes 31 January, 2002.** For more information about this retirement program that is now available to active duty service members, visit the TSP website [WWW.TSP.GOV](http://WWW.TSP.GOV) or contact your local finance office.

**PAY RAISE:** In January, 2002, every military member will receive a minimum pay raise of 6% for enlisted and 5% for officers. Some pay grades with certain years of services will receive a higher rate--up to 10%. These grades are primarily enlisted and warrant officer. For more specific information, to to the defenselink web site:

[www.defenselink.mil/news/Jan2002/n01072002\\_200201072.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Jan2002/n01072002_200201072.html)

### Inside This Issue

- 1 Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) window closes soon!
- 2 BAS Reform Act information
- 3 President signs Defense Authorization Act
- 4 Pay your Gov Travel Card by EFT!
- 5 New LES

**Bravo Blaze, Keep the fire burning!!!**

# Travel Issues

➤ SATO TRAVEL OFFERS WEB RESERVATIONS SITE: SATO now offers a variety of reservation services online at [www.satotravel.com/usareur](http://www.satotravel.com/usareur). Customers will find everything they need to plan official or leisure travel including information on emergency leave travel, TDY entitlements, travel insurance, travel links, and travel tips.

Office locations and telephone numbers, including those to use during emergencies, are also listed on this site. For additional information, call the Vicenza SatoTravel office at 634-8351 or call the European Reservation Center at DSN 236-8418.

➤ **PAY YOUR TRAVEL CARD BY EFT WITH "SPLIT DISBURSEMENT:**

Split-disbursement is a new payment option for government travel cardholders paying TDY expenses. Instead of waiting for a statement to arrive and sending the payment by mail, cardholders ask their finance office to send the payments directly to Bank of America, the government's travel card contractor.

According to Capt. Sean Ryan of the 266th Finance Command, "Split-disbursement gives the card holder the flexibility to have their payments sent directly to the Bank of America on time, without mail delays and in the amount they want or need to send."

It's simple--in block #1 of the DD form 1351-2, check the block that says Split Disbursement: and specify the amount you want to go to your government travel card account. Give it try and you will see how quick and easy it is to pay your gov credit card.

➤ OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT TRAVEL INFO: The VISA travel card is for Official Government travel only and official travel-related expenses away from your official duty station.

- > Official travel related expenses are those authorized and validated by travel orders.
- > A briefing is MANDATORY before you can apply for the card in SETAF. Briefings are given by the Agency Program Coordinator (APC) every Tuesday & Wednesday morning at 1000.
- > The APC in Vicenza can be found in Bldg #28, 2nd floor, Dir of Resource Mgmt.
- > The hours of operation: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 0830-1230 and Thurs 1330-1700.
- > You MUST pay your travel card in full each month. Long-term TDY? You must file an intermittent travel voucher every 30 days with finance to receive payment.

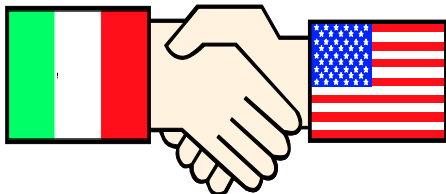
IN YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR APC:



➤ Government Travel Card holders, your SETAF AGENCY PROGRAM COORDINATORS (APCs) located in Vicenza, Italy are:

PRIMARY:	Ms. Veronica Myers	634-7487
ALTERNATE:	Ms. Donna Freedman	634-7257
ALTERNATE:	Ms. Erica Cosgrove	634-7155

➤ MONTHLY TRAVEL TIP : **Another benefit now available to travelers is the ability to check the status of travel payments online.** <https://portal.ssg.gunter.af.mil/tpq2/SSNquery.cfm>



## Local National Pay Issues:

LN Pay statements will be ready for pick-up Tuesday, 29 January at the finance Pay cage.

## CAREER STATUS BONUS AND REDUX: *Frequently Asked Questions*

How do I know if I am under the high 3 or pre1980 system?

- When do I have to decide? & when do I get the bonus?

- Suppose I take the bonus and later change my mind, can I? Even if I pay back the bonus?

- What happens if I take the bonus and I Separate?

- When is it Advantageous to take the bonus?

- Is the 30K bonus taxable? At what rate?

- I am under the high 3 (entered AD before Aug 86) can I take the bonus and switch to Redux?

**For the answers to these questions, you can visit the following web site:**

<http://pay2000.dtic.mil/>

# Jan

## CALENDAR

- **Payday** 1
- **Midmo Cutoff** 7
- **Midmo NPA distro** 14
- **Midmonth Payday** 15
- **USAREUR Tng Hol** 15
- **Martin LK Fed Hol** 21
- **EOM cutoff** 22
- **LES Distro** 28
- **LN Payday** 29

# PAY DAY!

## FISCAL YEAR 2002

### MILITARY PAYDAYS

JAN 2002-----01 FEB  
FEB 2002-----01 MAR  
MAR 2002-----01 APR  
APR 2002-----01 MAY  
MAY 2002-----31 MAY  
JUN 2002-----01 JUL  
JUL 2002-----01 AUG  
AUG 2002-----30 AUG  
SEP 2002-----01 OCT



## CIVILIAN 2001 W-2s

All 2001 W-2s will be mass mailed by January 3, 2002 to employee's address that was resident in the payroll system on December 15, 2001. Employees who do not receive their 2001 W-2 should contact their local CSR with any address corrections beginning January 26, 2002. Additionally, employees can view/print their 2001 W-2 from the [E/MSS web page](#).



*Late Breaking News*

Military Report.com  
[www.militaryreport.com](http://www.militaryreport.com)

## JAN 08, ISSUE

- New contact center available for Air Force pay problems

- 2002 Basic pay charts  
DEC 18, ISSUE

- Combat zone tax break announced.

- Update on 2002 Defense Authorization Act.

## DEC 04, ISSUE

- 2002 Pay Raise information

# Military Pay

➤ **BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR SUBSISTENCE (BAS) REFORM ACT:** There has been a lot of information and mis-information concerning the new BAS Reform Act: Don't panic--the basic rules for BAS authorization as laid out in the DODFMR remain.

**Bottom Line:** The Impact of the Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS) Reform Act is negligible and will only impact the BAS display on the LES (not the amount) for barracks soldiers. Barracks soldiers on meal cards will note BAS input and a BAS deduction, which will result in a net gain of \$31.80. The LES display will show full BAS (\$229.80) on the left-hand side of the LES (entitlements) and BAS collection (\$198) on the right-hand side deductions column. The difference is the payment \$31.80

**There is no deadline** for Commanders to continue to verify BAS authorizations due to the Reform Act. However, unit commanders must continue to verify BAS entitlements of the monthly Commanders Finance Report (UCFR). Commanders, (1st Field Grade Commander in the chain of command) may still authorize BAS.

## Missed Meals

Commanders should still ensure soldiers who hold meal cards receive reimbursement for missed meals due to mission requirements or due to Dining Facility being closed on weekends or holidays. More to follow in next months edition. We will keep you updated as we receive pertinent information.

➤ **FAMILY SERVICE MEMBER'S GROUP LIFE INSURANCE (FSGLI) REFUNDS:** If you elected to **not** receive the FSGLI or chose to reduce your coverage, the refunds for NOVEMBER 2001 for allotment stops or reductions will be processed in January 2002. The deadline to stop or change your FSGLI to receive a refund was 31 December, 2001.

➤ **W-2 ISSUANCE:** W-2 forms will be mailed from DFAS to the Military Pay Offices on 15 January, 2002. Upon receipt, your units will be promptly notified for the distribution schedule. Procedures for obtaining re-issued and corrected 2001 W-2 forms will be published in a separate newsletter and also via email. We will get this out to you as quickly as possible. More to follow.....

➤ **NEW LES:** Effective January 2002, the DFAS form 702, Leave and Earning Statement (LES) will be revised and will include information concerning your Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) deposits and balances.



## ON THE WEB

DFAS	<a href="http://www.dfas.mil/">http://www.dfas.mil/</a>
266 <sup>th</sup> FINCOM	<a href="https://144.170.213.77/">https://144.170.213.77/</a>
208 <sup>th</sup> Finance Battalion	<a href="Http://www.208fb.mannheim.army.mil/">Http://www.208fb.mannheim.army.mil/</a>
B Det 208 <sup>th</sup> FB	<a href="https://www.d208fb.vicenza.army.mil/">https://www.d208fb.vicenza.army.mil/</a>
FST Camp Darby	<a href="http://www.livorno.army.mil/">http://www.livorno.army.mil/</a>
Military Pay & Allowances	<a href="http://pay2000.dtic.mil/">http://pay2000.dtic.mil/</a>
Finance Regulations	<a href="http://131.84.1.34/comptroller/fmr/">http://131.84.1.34/comptroller/fmr/</a>

# MONEY MATTERS

## ➤ 20-Year-High Military Pay Raise Averages 6.9 Percent

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7, 2001 -- Service members will see an average increase of 6.9 percent in their January pay.

"It's the largest pay increase in 20 years," Navy Capt. Chris Kopang, DoD director of compensation, said in a recent American Forces Information Service interview. In general, officers will see their pay increase 5 percent, he said, and enlisted service members get a 6 percent boost in their pay beginning Jan. 1.

**Related Site of Interest: President signs Defense Authorization Act**, Dec. 28, 2001  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/12/20011228-4.html>



## ➤ STRENGTHEN YOUR BONDS OF FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE NOW!

Check out the 266th FINCOM's Financial Readiness Improvement Program at [www.266fc.hqusaureur.army.mil](http://www.266fc.hqusaureur.army.mil) and learn more about investing in bonds.

### Here are some Great Reasons to Think About Buying U.S. Savings Bonds:

- ✓ Interest is exempt from state and local income taxes and federal income tax can be deferred until you cash them in (for up to 30 years).
- ✓ May be federally tax-exempt for college, if qualified
- ✓ can be cashed in after as little as six months
- ✓ Interest accrues monthly, compounds semi-annually.
- ✓ Earn interest for up to 30 years
- ✓ An easy, affordable way to begin savings for the future.
- ✓ No fees or service charges
- ✓ Simple because it's automatic through payroll Savings
- ✓ Safe and Secure
- ✓ Backed by the full faith and credit of the United States



I BONDS = 4.40%

## Buy Bonds

[www.savingsbonds.gov](http://www.savingsbonds.gov)



EE BONDS = 4.07%

**Current Rates:** (through Apr. 2002)

New rates will be posted on May 1, 2002

# SETAF EURO CONVERSION FACT SHEET

The conversion to the euro will be coming very soon. The twelve European nations that are converting to the euro as of January 1, 2002 are: Austria, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, **Italy**, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, and Portugal.

- **WHAT'S THE LAST DATE ITALIAN LIRE WILL BE ACCEPTED?**

The Italian Lire will be accepted through February 28, 2002. However, vendors will provide change in euro only, effective January 1, 2002.

- **WHAT ABOUT MY LIRE CURRENCY?**

A "free exchange" period will begin January 1, 2002 and extend through February 28, 2002. During this period, the SETAF community may exchange lire currency for euro currency at participating locations. Currently, Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL) and the finance office (Vicenza & Camp Darby) are the SETAF financial agencies that will exchange lire currency for euro. BNL will offer this service throughout the free exchange period (January 2 - February 28, 2002), while the finance office will offer this service only through the month of January. There is no fee for this service.

- **WHAT EXCHANGE RATE WILL BE USED FOR LIRE-TO-EURO CONVERSIONS?**

The exchange rate for lire-to-euro, established by the European Union, is fixed at 1,936.27 lire to the euro.

- **WHAT HAPPENS IF I MISS THE LAST DAY OF THE "FREE EXCHANGE" PERIOD?**

If a customer misses the last day of the free exchange period (February 28, 2002), the Italian National Bank, Banca d'Italia, will convert lire-to-euro currency and coins for the next ten years. However, it's important to note that this is an off-post accommodation.

- **WHAT ABOUT GLOBAL CREDIT UNION?**

During the month of January, Global Credit Union customers can make lire deposits into their Global Credit Union accounts, but Global does not offer lire-to-euro conversions.

- **WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT DENOMINATIONS OF THE EURO NOTES AND COINS?**

Euro notes denominations are very similar to Deutsch mark notes. The notes will be: 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, and 5 euro notes. The coins will be: 2, 1, .50, .20, .10, .05, .02, and .01.

- **WHAT EFFECT DOES THE EURO HAVE ON MY RENT, LEASE, AND OR MORTGAGE CONTRACT? DO THEY HAVE TO BE RE-NEGOTIATED?**

No. The amounts agreed upon in the original contract will simply be converted to euro without re-execution. For more information, please contact the Housing Office.

- **WILL THIS CONVERSION AFFECT MY OVERSEAS HOUSING ALLOWANCE, OR COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE?**

Effective with the conversion, Overseas Housing Allowance payments will no longer be computed in Italian lire, but will be computed using the euro instead. Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) will continue to be paid in U.S. dollars.

- **WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ON THE EURO CONVERSION?**

Further information can be found on the European Union's official euro site <http://europa.eu.int/euro/> , or contact the SETAF Disbursing Officer at DSN: 634-7254.

# POINTS OF CONTACT

BRAVO DETACHMENT, 208TH FINANCE BATTALION  
UNIT 31401, BOX 50  
APO AE 09630

## VICENZA, ITALY

COMMANDER	CPT GARY HILL	634-7024	GARY.HILL@SETAF.ARMY.MIL
DET SGT	SFC MALLORY	634-7044	KAREN.MALLORY@SETAF.ARMY.MIL
XO	VACANT	634-7612	
SEPARATIONS	MS HEYER	634-8855	CRYSTALL.HEYER@SETAF.ARMY.MIL
DISBURSING	1LT DAMON DUAINÉ	634-7622	DAMON.DUAINÉ@SETAF.ARMY.MIL
IMO	MR ROBERTSON	634-8866	DOUG.ROBERTSON@SETAF.ARMY.MIL
MILITARY PAY	SSG MOLINA	634-7455	OSMAR.MOLINA@SETAF.ARMY.MIL
TRAVEL	MS DELLAMEA	634-8027	STEPHANIA.DELLAMEA@SETAF.ARMY.MIL
LN PAY	MR MASENELLO	634-7019	ERMENEGILDO.MASENELLO@SETAF.ARMY.MIL
IN/OUT PROC	SGT PENNY COOK	634-7531	PENNY.COOK@SETAF.ARMY.MIL

## CAMP DARBY, ITALY

FST CHIEF	SFC FOWLER	633-7516	CHARLES.FOWLER@DARBY.SETAF.ARMY.MIL
-----------	------------	----------	-------------------------------------

## NAPLES, ITALY HQ USAE FINANCE PSC 813 , BOX 156, APO AE 09620

FST CHIEF	SSG MORTIN	625-6170	MORTINF@USAEAFS.SHAPE.ARMY.MIL
	SGT BROOME		BROOMEL@USAEAFS.SHAPE.ARMY.MIL

## MADRID, SPAIN JHQSUS USANSA, PSC 840, BOX 14, FPO AE 09649

FST CHIEF	SGT CHAVIS	COM 0034-91-512-0564	CHAVISD@JCSW-MADRID.NAVY.MIL
-----------	------------	----------------------	------------------------------

## LARISSA, GREECE US ARMY NATO PSC 844, BOX 2, FPO AE 09844

FST CHIEF	SSG GARDNER	672-2259	GARDNERN@USNSEGR.NAVY.MIL
-----------	-------------	----------	---------------------------

## IZMIR, TURKEY USAE, LSE PSC 88, APO AE 09821

FST CHIEF	SGT ANDREWS	675-3691	CARLOS.ANDREWS@IZMIR.AR.MIL
	SGT AVILA		GEORGE.AVILA@IZMIR.AR.MIL

## ANKARA, TURKEY ODC TURKEY, PSC 90, UNIT 7025, APO AE 09824

POC	SSG WALKER	672-2259/3280	WALKERR@ODC-T.ANKARA.AF.MIL
-----	------------	---------------	-----------------------------



***Information current as of date of publication.***

Newsletter POC: This newsletter is a publication of Bravo Detachment, 208th Finance Battalion. The information contained herein is for the benefit of our Camp Darby community. We hope that you find the information useful and informative. If you have any suggestions or comments, contact SFC Tom Fowler, at DSN 633-7516 or email [charles.fowler@darby.setaf.army.mil](mailto:charles.fowler@darby.setaf.army.mil)

# MPS

COMMANDER  
B DET, 208<sup>TH</sup> FB  
UNIT 31401, BOX 50  
APO AE, 09630

---

## Feedback Form

Please take a few minutes to provide suggestions as to how we may improve our service to you.

---

---

---

---

---